

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fellows. Claims 3 to 5 and 7 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Fellows in view of Kay.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fellows.

Fellows shows a union 16e for supplying compressed air.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the functional language and recite: "the supply line having at least one flow restrictor altering fluid flow as a function of the at least one hole being covered by an axially-removable printing sleeve."

As admitted in the outstanding Office Action at page 2, the last line, Fellows fails to teach a flow restrictor which restricts fluid flow, and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection to claim 1 and its dependent claim 2 is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 3 to 5 and 7 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Fellows in view of Kay.

Fellows is discussed above.

Kay discloses a multi-tube flow restrictor having two operational possibilities: either no flow at all, or a restricted flow between inlet 16 and outlet 18 which aids in sound suppression. See column 3, lines 13 to 21 and column 4, lines 20 to 31 of Kay. Kay must *move* the valve member 36 to shut off flow.

Present claim 1 recites: "the supply line having at least one flow restrictor altering fluid flow as a function of the at least one hole being covered by an axially-removable printing sleeve."

Even if the restrictor of Kay were somehow combinable in the Fellows device (and there is no motivation or reason to do so, as the union of Fellows does not appear to create any sound issues, or pose any other problems requiring substitution of the Kay device), the claimed limitation of claim 1 would not be met. There is no teaching or indication that flow through the Kay device would be restricted as a function of any positioning of a sleeve over the first holes of Fellows, as the Kay device restricts flow as a function of the intentional movement of the valve member 36 and there is no indication that the covering of the holes in Fellows would alter any fluid flow in Kay at all.

Withdrawal of the rejection to dependent claims 3 to 5 and 7 to 10 which depend from claim 1 is respectfully requested.

In addition with respect to claim 5, there is no reason or teaching for providing the additional restrictor as in the specific work side limitation, nor did the Office Action assert any.

With further respect to claim 7, it does not appear that the Fellows/Kay combination (which is not believed proper) would affect fluid flow of this hole.

With respect to claims 8 and 9, these limitations also are not met, nor would it have been obvious as Fellows seems to desire a single union for ease of air provision.

Claim 11 recites a printing press with a first printing cylinder having at least one external hole and a first flow restrictor;

a first axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the first printing cylinder;

an additional printing cylinder having at least one second external hole and a second flow restrictor; an additional axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the additional printing cylinder; and

a fluid supply source for supplying pressure to the first and second external holes; the first flow restrictor restricting flow through the external hole as a function of an axial position of the first printing sleeve with respect to the first printing cylinder and the second flow restrictor restricting flow through the second external hole as a function of an other axial position of the additional printing sleeve with respect to the additional printing cylinder.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no motivation to combine the Fellows and Kay references, as the union of Fellows does not appear to have any need or desire

for a flow restrictor of Kay. In addition, even if the references could be combined, the restrictor of Kay would not restrict "flow through the external hole as a function of an axial position of the first printing sleeve with respect to the first printing cylinder" as recited in claim 11. Kay only provides two flow regimes through control of a valve: no flow or restricted flow. There is no indication or teaching that the device of Kay would alter fluid flow as a function of the axial position of a printing sleeve of Fellows.

With respect to claim 15, neither Kay nor Fellows shows a restrictor or anything that could be considered a restrictor at an external hole, nor did the Office Action argue that such a positioning would have been obvious. It is respectfully submitted it would not have been, as the external holes of Fellows are clear of restrictions.

With respect to claim 16, claim 16 recites "automatically restricting flow through the other holes when the printing sleeve no longer is located over the other holes."

Again, the Kay restrictor would not automatically restrict fluid flow as claimed, as the valve member 36 must be moved to alter fluid flow.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 to claims 11, 15 and 16 and to their dependent claims, as well as to the claims which depend from claim 1, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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Re: Application of:
Serial No.:

Vrotacoe
09/767,108

VERSION SHOWING CLAIM CHANGES

1. (Amended) A printing cylinder for accepting an axially-removable printing sleeve comprising:

a cylinder body having an outer surface, the outer surface having at least one hole; and

a supply line in the cylinder body for supplying fluid to the at least one hole, the supply line having at least one flow restrictor [designed to alter] altering fluid flow as a function of the at least one hole being covered by an axially-removable printing sleeve.